



# City of Brazil

## 5-Year Park Plan Update

OCTOBER 2022

CITY OF  
**brazil**  
INDIANA

CITY OF BRAZIL

# 5-YEAR PARK PLAN UPDATE

OCTOBER 2022



City of Brazil Parks & Rec  
911 South Bonnie Geyne Miller Drive  
Brazil, Indiana 47834  
(812) 443-2221

## PREPARED BY



GAI Consultants, Inc.  
618 East South Street, Suite 700  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
(407) 423-8398

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# 01

## INTRODUCTION

# **City of Brazil Parks & Recreation**

911 South Bonnie Geyne Miller Drive  
Brazil, Indiana 47834  
(812) 443-2221

# Parks Board

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On September 20, 1921, an ordinance was passed by the Common Council of the City of Brazil creating a Board of Trustees for the control and management of the public parks of the City of Brazil. The Board's requirements were most recently updated by Ordinance 4-1992, and the Board must consist of four members, appointed by the Mayor, with no more than two being affiliated with the same political party. The members must be residents of the City of Brazil. A Copy of this Ordinance can be found at the end of this report.

| ROLE           | NAME           | EMAIL                   | TERM EXPIRES<br>(@ 11:59 PM) |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| President      | Janet Mclellan | janetm@brazil.in.gov    | 12/31/2023                   |
| Vice President | Georgia Day    | georgia-day@hotmail.com | 12/31/2023                   |
| Secretary      | Carrol Evans   | carrol.evans@yahoo.com  | 12/31/2023                   |
| Member         | Larry Wyndham  | lbwyn@yahoo.com         | 12/31/2023                   |

Brazil City Park Board  
203 East National Avenue  
Brazil, Indiana 47834

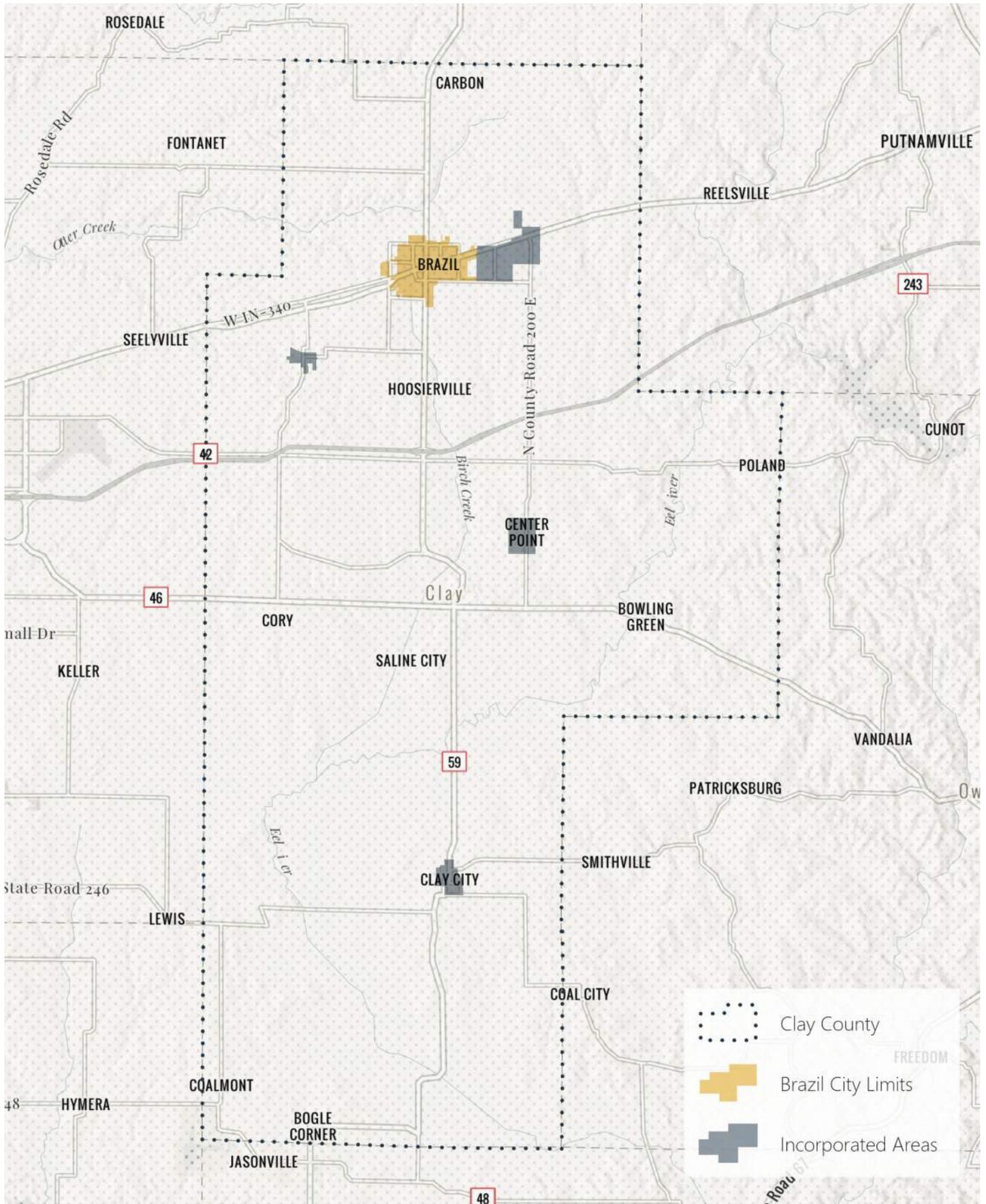
# Parks Superintendent

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Marv Moon

mmoon@brazil.in.gov

(812) 605-9061



# Planning Area

The Brazil City Parks and Recreation Planning Area starts with the Service area, Brazil, IN, and the residences within 2 miles of the city limits. The service area starts in the City of Brazil and extends 6 miles outside the city limits to 5 smaller towns. Although this is the primary servicing area, the parks provide service to all communities in Clay County, Indiana and beyond. The Brazil City Parks and Recreation Board works with all areas of the community and surrounding communities to provide them with a safe environment in which anyone, regardless of residency, age, mental or physical abilities, or socio- economic status, can have a variety of recreational activities in which to take part.

# 02

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

# Plan Purpose

The purpose of the City of Brazil 5-Year Park Plan Update is to provide a road map for the future of Brazil's park system.

Specifically, the 5-Year Plan should strive to achieve the following:

- Evaluate the current park properties and facilities
- Evaluate and make recommendations regarding priorities for the improvement and expansion of these facilities
- Make recommendations for prioritization of park facility construction
- Create an action plan that is implementable and identifies projects for the future
- Provide a conceptual blueprint for improving, sustaining, and enhancing the quality of life in the City of Brazil

## MISSION

The Mission of the Brazil Parks and Recreation Department is:

*"To create and maintain a safe and enjoyable environment, in all of our parks, for all of the members of Brazil and surrounding communities regardless of age, physical or mental abilities, or social status so that they will have the opportunity to spend time outside of their homes to better their quality of life and provide physical and mental activities that they might not have otherwise."*

# Goals and Objectives

## OF THE PARKS BOARD

- Improve and maintain a quality park system and facilities that excite the community
- Implement parks management maintenance initiative
- Advance trail development within the parks
- Implement capital improvement projects that will make an impact
- Create Parks & Recreation facility that excite the community
- Find future direction for all parks
- Develop and organizational culture of excellence
- Review and revise parks personnel policies when needed
- Improve the effectiveness of the Park Superintendent/Board communication
- Elevate the effectiveness of community relations
- Grow recreation programs to increase participation levels
- Create a volunteer program to help staff
- Continue to grow youth sports facilities
- Continue to grow adult programs and/or facilities

## OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- As a publicly owned and funded facility, it is our goal to make our parks dept. as inclusive to our community as possible. We strive to keep all of our park properties safe, clean, and welcoming to all. The Brazil park properties are always a project in motion. We try to add new features every year whether it be new playground equipment or upgrading public facilities. The main goal is to make the best use of public property for all the community to enjoy and use.
- Near future goals include making more ADA compliant playground structures and walkways.
- We are also focusing on upgrading the shelters in our park properties. These shelters are beginning to show their age. While the structures are not unsafe, we would like to upgrade them before this becomes an issue.
- Future goals also include locating outside funds to help with the more expensive projects that are outside the scope of our normal operating budget.
- We try to upgrade infrastructure regularly as well. This includes drainage, plumbing in facilities, fixtures in facilities, and electrical indoor/outdoor. The goal of having good infrastructure in municipal owned park is often overlooked, but we believe is of utmost importance to have a functioning base to build the best facility possible. We are constantly working on our goals of safe facilities and inclusive features for our parks.

# 03

## **SCOPING - FEATURES OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY**

# Background

The following background summary provides understanding and context for the planning of the City of Brazil Parks system. Text has been taken directly from the previous 5-year plan and updated as necessary to reflect changes and updates.

## PARK HISTORY

### HISTORY OF FOREST PARK

On September 8, 1921, Forest Park was created on 58 acres of land known as Staubitzer Grove. After a series of negotiations with a variety of interested groups, the city of Brazil and the local school board met with the Staubitzer heirs and they signed part of the property over to the school board and the remainder over to the City of Brazil. In June of 1924, the first structure was built in Forest Park. The structure was an auditorium with a stage and two dressing rooms. Other improvements dating to the 1920s include the relocation of two hewn-log cabins. The cabins are maintained by the Clay County Historical Society and display a variety of artifacts. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was responsible for many improvements in the park during the 1930s. A series of fish ponds, dams, and a swimming pool and bath house were built by the program's workers. The 1930's also saw the construction of two large projects. The Roy Brann Stadium was completed in 1935. Two years later, a band shell, located just south of the auditorium, was dedicated. Both facilities are still in use. The most prominent and well known feature of the park is the "Chafariz Dos Contos" or Fountain of Tales. The fountain was presented to the City of Brazil by the Republic of Brazil in 1950. Although it was shipped to the United States in 1953, it was not completed until 1956. In 1978, a new swimming pool replaced the old round pool. A new bath house was built to replace the original structure, and a water slide was added in 1987. By 1990, the Brazil City Park Board (BCPR) was having difficulty maintaining the park due to shrinking budgets. On May 15, 1990, a group of concerned Clay County citizens formed a committee for the purpose of supporting the BCPR. They were to be called the Clay Community Parks Association. Their goal was to raise funds for the upkeep and improvements to the parks. Through their efforts a new wooden children's playground was built, old sidewalks were replaced and new sidewalks were added, and the band shell, the Fountain, and the auditorium were restored.

There have been numerous other projects and facilities built in Forest Park during its 84 year history, among these are two restroom facilities, a second ball field, numerous shelters, tennis courts, basketball courts, and a walking track. Forest Park continues to be the center of recreational outdoor activities for Clay County and surrounding counties.

## HISTORY OF GEORGE CRAIG PARK

Former Brazil Mayor Norval Pickett Jr., initiated the development of George Craig Park in 1977 in honor of the former Indiana Governor and Brazil native. Craig Park contains over 98 acres comprised of both the former waterworks department for the City of Brazil and 54 acres purchased from Rhema Mae Bennett with a grant from the United States Housing and Urban Development Department. Part of the grant was the construction of a large steel frame building to be used as a community zoo. The zoo was only in operation for a few years and was disbanded when Mayor Pickett did not win another term. The building is now used for storage. It has fallen in disrepair although several suggestions for other uses have been discussed at different times. There are two lakes on the Craig Park property. These lakes at one time supplied municipal domestic water to the City of Brazil. They have been replaced with wells in Putnam County. The lakes are now used for recreational fishing and wildlife habitat. In 2005 a cross country trail, designed and constructed by the Brad Deal family and the Northview High School Cross Country Team, was placed in a large field and woods on the north end of the property. It is used by citizens of the community as a nature trail even though a new walking track has been added to the park. A small playground, shelters, and restrooms have been added throughout the years to encourage people to utilize the park. In 2014, phase 1 of a new walking/biking trail around one of the lakes was completed. The project was funded by a grant secured by the Clay Community Parks Association. The Clay Community Parks Association is in the process of securing a grant to do phase 2 of the walking/biking trail around the lake. Phase 2 will be to add a bridge over the west end of the lake to connect the horseshoe shaped trail just completed. This will make the trail a full circle. In 2015, under the direction of the Clay County Softball League, land was set aside to construct a softball complex which includes 2 fields, a concession stand, and a parking lot. In 2016, the first field was completed in Phase I and in 2022, Phase II was completed. In 2018, the Clay County Soccer Club built four soccer fields, with two more to come.

## **HISTORY OF HENDRIX PARK (FORMERLY BABE WHEELER PARK)**

Brazil elected its first mayor in 1873, the same year the town was incorporated. The village grew, became a city, and stretched in every direction as new homes were built and business started. The city plat pushed north from the National Road and included an area set aside for Hendrix Street Park, so named after the Hendrix family who donated the land. The park area is approximately 1.35 acres. It is located in a residential area and is widely used. In 1972 the Brazil City Park Board renamed the park Babe Wheeler Park in honor of a public school teacher, coach, and City Council member who had contributed a great deal to the schools, athletic programs and parks of the city. A landscaped marker with a commemorative brass plaque was placed there at the time of the change. In 2018, the park was rededicated as Hendrix Park. Throughout the years a shelter was added, playground equipment was installed, a men's and women's restroom was built, and a basketball court was constructed.

## RECENT AND UPCOMING MAINTENANCE

### GEORGE CRAIG PARK

Due to recent overly wet springs, the Northeast inlet at Craig Park has been cleaned of debris. The viaduct of the inlet was cleaned thoroughly and high-pressure jetted to handle the increased flow rates. The area West of the inlet had sediment removed and the inlet area itself was widened by two feet. Along with the top of the inlet being reinforced with riprap and topsoil seeded with grass. The dam area was cleared of invasive species (honeysuckle). The collected debris from the heavier water flow was removed from creek banks and floor of creek itself. This led to discovering a large amount of honeysuckle at the top of the creek banks, which was removed with heavy machinery and manual labor. Due to this, we were able to add more length to walking trails and better-maintain our walking trails because of ease of access.

We were able to also cooperate with Clay County Soil and Water Conservation to add pollinator plots and hardwood trees. Although more pollinator plots and trees are needed, we have a foothold on increasing numbers of hardwoods and pollinators. Also, in cooperation with Clay County Soil and Water Conservation, we have removed invasive honeysuckle from pond banks and edges of Northern walking track at Craig Park. We will have further cooperation from this organization and there is a plan in place to rectify the smaller number of hardwoods and pollinating plants.

Craig Park's two large ponds have been under aquatic vegetation treatment for the last decade. This has recently expanded to the banks and spill ways to help keep the area free of invasive species while providing more bank fishing areas. Invasives have also been removed from the dam area, but more work needs to be done to remove years of honeysuckle growth from the surrounding areas of the dam. This work would have to be done with outside funding and help due to limited manpower and existing budget.

### FOREST PARK

Our drainage outlet on the Northern-most end of the park was replaced two summers ago with a 24" viaduct, upgrading the existing 16" viaduct, which was under-sized due to the drainage project that was installed in 2017. This outlet now handles all the storm water runoff from Forest Park with no issues. Wetter areas of the park have been graded and seeded to mitigate standing water and to foster good natural drainage. The flower beds in the park were all stripped in the Fall of 2022. They will be replaced with new topsoil and

mulching. We are in cooperation with our local Girl Scouts organization, who in the Fall of 2022, agreed to plant and maintain our man-made flower beds. Our historic fountain in the park was recently renovated with all new façade and plumbing, and a problematic koi pond was removed due to leaking and flooding issues. We have plans for the fall of 2023 to hardscape and plant perennials at the rear section of this fountain to be more pleasing to the public eye. Also in cooperation with Clay County Soil and Water Conservation, we are replanting trees that were destroyed by Emerald Ash Bore. Along with the trees that were removed due to Emerald Ash Bore, trees with significant rot and root damage were taken down as well. We are working on a plan to replace trees as they are removed. Hopefully this plan will be in full motion by the Fall of 2023.

## **CLAY COUNTY COMMUNITY SKATE PARK**

Ceiling of the concrete structures will be performed in the Spring of 2023. The adjacent sitting area and parking lot of this park will also be regraded and more seating installed, making it more user-friendly.

## **HENDRIX PARK**

Drainage tile was installed on the baseball field to better-shed the standing water for playing area. Hardscape and landscaping are to be added to the Northeast part of the park in Spring of 2023. Currently in the planning stages of looking for funds to replace the perimeter fence and upgrade aesthetic vegetations.

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In the future, the City of Brazil would like to work with IDNR Community and Urban Forestry Program. Using their expertise to possibly obtain grants and input on removing invasive species. This is one thing the Parks Department has trouble dealing with, with such a small group of employees. We are currently doing what we can, but the cost of herbicide and the lack of man power slows this process. We currently spend over \$3,000 annually on herbicide to deal with this issue. We also struggle with spraying in areas with a natural water-shed so these invasives have to be manually removed.

## NATURAL FEATURES & LANDSCAPE

### CLAY COUNTY

Brazil is in the northern half of Clay County located in West Central Indiana. It is surrounded by Vigo, Park, Putnam, Owen, Greene, and Sullivan Counties, starting to the west with Vigo and continuing clockwise. As noted by the county name, much of the land surrounding Brazil is clay in nature, however that has not been a hindrance to the growth of flora or fauna. The clay nature of the soil does often give off an unusual kissing sound when heavy rains saturate the ground. One needs only to stand outside after a good soaking to hear it.

Graced with natural rivers, creeks, lakes and ponds; pasture, farm, and wooded lands; and the beautiful open skies, Clay County could be viewed by many as the perfect place on earth to live because all four seasons of the year are handsomely displayed. The climate runs from frigid temperatures and wind chills in the winters that make sledding and skiing fun to high heat and humidity in the summers for swimming, with greening springs that make finding morel mushroom a prime activity while autumn's brilliant foliage begins the time of wild game hunting. The year round activities are abundant for all who wish to seek them out.

The farmlands throughout the county range from vast expanses to simple one acre or smaller plots and they all dot the landscape in a quilted fashion. The crops, corn, soy beans, and winter wheat, are sown in rotation and the harvest season often finds large tractors joining cars and trucks as motor vehicles on county roads, and sometimes even on Brazil's side streets. The elevation ranges as high as 700 feet above sea level with rolling hills, steep ravines, and flatter farmlands. Brazil itself is located on a gentle grade beginning at the lower elevation at the city's west side of and inclining steadily until they reach their peak at the east side.

### TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of the City of Brazil ranges from nearly flat to steeper grades of incline. The area around Brazil has rolling hillsides, though not the heights of foothills. The elevation ranges as high as nearly 700 feet above sea level with gentle to not so gentle rolling hills, steep ravines, and flatter farmlands. Brazil itself is located on a gentle grade beginning at the lower elevation at the city's west side of 631 feet above sea level and inclining steadily until they reach their peak at the east side at 677 feet. However, streets such as Meridian Street on the City's northwest side do see the greatest elevation changes in the shortest spaces. For instance, in the heart of the historic district,

elevation change in the 6-7 blocks on Meridian Street between National Avenue, US Hwy 40, in the Blane and Logan Street intersections increases from 659 feet to 713 feet above sea level.<sup>(1)</sup>

The importance of these elevation changes comes in play in areas like the intersection of Chicago Avenue and Jackson Street on the city's southwest side. Here in this low area of the city, the elevation is only 636 feet above sea level and the water table sits a mere 2 feet below the surface of the ground. In late autumn 2016, the city's wastewater/storm water department replaced the aging storm drains in this intersection. The history of the storm water sitting in this area and prohibiting use of these side streets forced the need for the upgrade. Because the water table was so close to the surface of the ground, there was no way to keep it out of the worksite, despite the use of pumps. This caused delays in getting the project done, with the time of work lasting nearly a month. But, the remainder of the city does not see such stark elevation changes and the water table does not come into play to such a degree for the vast majority of time. Because of the leisurely lay of the land, the City of Brazil is great for walking, jogging, and bicycling.

## GEOLOGY/ SOILS

According to the Indiana Geological Survey, the City of Brazil sits on the Brazil Formation, which consists of the Mansfield Stone layer through the Petersburg Coal (Springfield Coal Member.) The soil consists of a lower layer of Minshall Coal member and advances up through the Upper Block Member, the Lower Block Members. The soil is a combination of materials from shale to coal, with layers of underclay and sandstone between. This Brazil Formation ranges from Warren County on the northwestern border of Indiana and Illinois and runs south to the Ohio River edged Spencer County.<sup>(2)</sup>

The coal industry boomed for many years in the Brazil area and had been a supplier of many jobs in the past thanks to the Amax Coal Company's Chinook Mine in Staunton, Indiana, located just outside of Brazil. This mine focused on the Earth's surface with strip mining. Other mines have operated in the area, including underground mines, but none as large as the Amax Company. Before the mine closed, the property was reclaimed and named the Chinook Fish and Wildlife Area that is now managed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. It is home to many strip pits that have been

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(1) "Elevation of Brazil." <http://elevationmap.net/2044-in-340-brazil-in-47834-usa?latlngs={39.51920462589188,-87.14406967163086}>

(2) "Brazil Formation." IGS, Indiana University Bloomington, <https://igws.indiana.edu/IGNIS/GeoNamesDetails.cfm?ID=1387DB72-7180-404F-9205-727E8A0D5B84>.

well stocked with large mouthed bass, bluegill, redear, crappie, catfish, and trout, as well as nice lands on which the area wildlife flourish.<sup>(3)</sup>

## HYDROLOGY

Although there are no major rivers or streams in Brazil, Clay County does have several waterways that range from small creeks and streams up to the Eel River that runs through the southern half of the county. In Brazil, there is an area called Pogue's Run, which is now a storm water basin and run-off area. By natural design, it was a dry creek bed until the seasonal rains brought it to use. Once the wet season abated, the creek bed again dried. In the 1913 edition of the Indiana State Board of Health's Eighth Annual Report of the Chemical Division of Laboratory Hygiene, Pogue's Run was stated originally be the city's storm and sewer outlet.<sup>(4)</sup> (This 1913 document strongly recommended that Brazil have its own wastewater treatment plant. Sewage no longer runs through Pogue's Run.) Today, however, Pogue's Run provides an area for heavy storm waters to once again to flow safely away on US HWY 40 from Walmart to Vandalia Street, including the subdivision north of the 900 block of US Hwy 40 and the residential area known as Donaldsonville south of Walmart.

Pogue's Run begins on the city's east limits as storm water drains that collect rain water on the highway. The drained water is detoured into Pogue's Run detention/retention pond from sites along Murphy Road south off of US 40 as well as the large, new drain located immediately east of 915 E National Ave. Once there it is diverted to the retention pond, built in 2015, south of HWY 40 and west of Murphy Road. If the storm waters are slight, they stay in the retention pond until they evaporate. However, if the rains are heavy enough to cause the pond to overflow, these excess waters are diverted into Pogue's Run, where they flow through both open ditch and underground passages to the City's southwest side to empty into Birch's Creek, which in turn empties into the Eel River.

The Pogue's Run detention pond was a stipulation for the reconstruction of US Hwy 40, a \$22 million project by the State of Indiana, because there was

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(3) "Chinook Fish & Wildlife Area." Indiana Department of Natural Resources, <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3098.htm>

(4) Indiana State Board of Health Eighth Annual Report of the chemical Division of Laboratory of Hygiene for the Year Ending September 30, 1913, Indianapolis: WM. B. Burford, Contractor for State Printing and Binding, 1914, pg 150

no place to divert water the new storm drains would collect.<sup>(5)(6)</sup> Once that pond was finished, the highway reconstruction began, which included the installation of new storm water lines. The majority of the storm water that was collected west of Vandalia Street was routed through the new drainage to a larger pond on the northwest side of Brazil. This pond joins the Craig Park pond by way of a pipe that runs under Waterworks Road.

Not all storm water from US 40 flows into either Pogue's Run retention pond or the second pond on the city's northwest side. The storm water from the intersection of US HWY 40 and Indiana 59, and soon the neighborhood in the Railroad Street and Darley Street area, flow into the INDOT retention pond located just south of Jackson Street on the west side of Indiana 59.

How important are these improvements to Pogue's Run? Pogue's Run encompasses a 100 year flood zone and a 500 year flood zone and June 7, 2008 was the last major flood in Brazil. Many houses in the flood zones were inundated with several feet of storm water. The flooding was enough to cause President George W. Bush to declare Clay County, along with 28 other counties in Indiana, a disaster area when the state was hit with 11 inches of rain. Since the completion of the Pogue's Run storm water project, the chances of another flood have been reduced by about 50%, according to Brazil City Wastewater Superintendent, Billy Goodrich.<sup>(7)(8)(9)(10)</sup> In 2014, FEMA began offering buyouts for homeowners in afore mentioned flood zone in a 3 Phase program. Those who accepted the offer would relocate, their former properties demolished, and the reclaimed property turned over to the City of Brazil. The city would permanently own those properties, they could never be sold if the city wished not to pay back FEMA. No permanent enclosed structures could be built upon these properties and no fences could be erected at any time. The properties could be turned over to the BCPR to be converted to neighborhood parks. However they could not become an

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(5) Moon, Jason. "Board of Public Work and Safety approves payments." The Brazil Times, 23 January 2013, <http://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/1934246.html>

(6) Moon, Jason. "Brazil Board meets to handle several issues." The Brazil Times, 23 January 2013, <http://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/1934246.html>

(7) Jackson, Ivy and Jacobs, Jason. "BREAKING NEWS: State of Emergency." The Brazil Times, 7 June 2008, <https://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/1435154.html>

(8) Jackson, Ivy. "County one of 29 in state declared disaster areas." The Brazil Times, 9 June 2008, <https://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/1435515.html>

(9) Moon, Jason. "Residents urged to eye road signs." The Brazil Times, 12 June 2008, <http://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/1436650.html>

(10) Jackson, Ivy. "PHOTO GALLERY: Flood images." The Brazil Times, 7 June 2008, <https://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/1435155>

attraction like a dog park.

Not all homeowners in the flood plain chose to participate in the FEMA program, however. Some homeowners opted out and continue to live in these flood zones. One reported reason for this was the offer from the City of Brazil to purchase these homes was too low. Guidelines for purchase of the homes were set up by FEMA. There were 2 appraisals obtained from local realtors, those two appraisals averaged, and that averaged amount is what was offered to the property owners. Those who chose not to accept the offer could never again seek or receive FEMA assistance for flooding because they chose not to participate in the FEMA program.<sup>(11)(12)(13)(14)</sup>

Another source of water comes in the form of aquifers: layers of rock or sand that can hold water. There are four main bedrock aquifers systems that lie under Clay County. Those are the Mississippian Blue River and Sanders Groups, the Pennsylvania Carbondale Groups; the Mississippian Buffalo Wallow, Stephensport, and West Baden Groups; and the Pennsylvania Raccoon Creek Group. These aquifers can be found at both shallow and far buried depths ranging from a mere 14 feet down to 340 below the grounds surface. Wells drilled in these aquifers can produce as little as 2 gallons of water per minute (gpm) to as much as 100 gpm, although the average is 26 gpm. Domestic wells drilled into these aquifers seem to be generally productive, however there have been dry wells encountered in the Pennsylvania Raccoon Creek Group.<sup>(15)</sup>

There are many lakes and ponds in Clay County and there are homeowners that use those lakes as their residential water source. These homeowners use water filtration systems to purify their water to be potable. Although this is a resourceful use of area water, there are no known homes within the Brazil City Limits that use a lake or pond as their source of drinkable water and

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(11) Rollins, Ernest. "Board approves first phase of Fema buyout." The Brazil Times, 3 January 2014, <https://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/2038496.html>

(12) Rollins, Ernest. "Phase II of FEMA buyout progressing -- Demolition of first phase properties on the horizon." The Brazil Times, 28 August 2018, <https://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/2113772.html>

(13) Rollins, Ernest. "City continues discussion on FEMA buyout." The Brazil Times, 20 June 2014, <http://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/2094086.html>

(14) Phillips, Frank. "City makes offers on 7 properties in flood plain." The Brazil Times, 29 October, 2016, <https://www.thebraziltimes.com/story/2355499.html>

(15) "Map Showing Underground Coal Mines in Clay County, Indiana." Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Coal Mine Information System, December 2011, [https://cmis.dnr.in.gov/countymaps/clay\\_underground\\_mines\\_web.pdf](https://cmis.dnr.in.gov/countymaps/clay_underground_mines_web.pdf)

none of the city parks uses lake or pond water to furnish their water needs. The City's water is sourced from wells located on the west bank of the Walnut Creek in Putnam County.<sup>(16)</sup>

An unusual source of water is the abandoned underground coal mines that dot Clay County. The upper 1/3 of the county was more heavily mined, with the area under Brazil and the surrounding area having the heaviest past activity. These mines have the ability to hold large amounts of water, with as much 300+ gpm potential draw should a well be drilled into one, though no such wells have been reported. A possible drawback to using water from these mines could be the higher mineral content they contain.<sup>(17)</sup> The surface or pit mining of the Amax Coal Company, mentioned in Geology/Soils section of this Plan, is now a source of water with its many pits now having been reclaimed into lakes. Once the activity of large trucks, bull dozers, and dragline, these lakes make a beautiful and serene habitat for the natural wildlife in the area and a prime spot for the avid fisherman.

The final source of water in Brazil is ground water tables. Unlike the aquifers, these water tables can be directly underground. While most areas of Brazil have water tables in the range from 20 feet to 114 feet, the intersection of Chicago Street and Jackson Ave has a water table of 2 feet as the intersection is in a depressed physical location. That level of water made the 2016 replacement of the storm water drains in that intersection very difficult. The importance of knowing local water tables can be very impactful in the decisions the City of Brazil makes in purchasing or accepting land for its Parks Department as an area with such a shallow water source would be undesirable for building upon.

## FOREST RESOURCES

According to the Science Dictionary, Indiana, and most of the continental United States, lies within the Temperate Zone, meaning the temperatures are reasonably modest throughout the year as are the precipitation levels. The Society of American Foresters places Indiana in a subdivision of the Eastern Deciduous Forest called Midland Hardwood Forest. This forest is comprised of varieties of maples, elms, oaks, hickories, ash, black walnut, along with the eastern red cedar conifer. The Scotch pine tree that is seen in this area is a

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(16) "Water Quality Report: Where Does Our Water Come From." 2012, <http://brazil.in.gov/utilities/>

(17) Scott, Robert A. "Bedrock Acquirer Systems of Clay County, Indiana." Division of Water, Resource Assessment Section, December 2010, [https://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/73\\_Clay\\_County\\_BED\\_AQSYS\\_text.pdf](https://www.in.gov/dnr/water/files/73_Clay_County_BED_AQSYS_text.pdf)

planted variety that is considered exotic, meaning not native to this area, and so has been brought here by the inhabitants.<sup>(18)</sup>

The above mentioned varieties in the state are very representative of the trees in the City of Brazil and its parks. Other trees include the catalpa, red bud, dogwood, sassafras, and several varieties of sycamore trees to name a few. Because of the large diversity of the trees in the Eastern Deciduous Forest and the region, it contains the largest variety of trees in the world.

But with this variety also comes a myriad of pest and pathogens that can endanger these trees, including the Emerald Ash Borer. This Asian beetle made its presence known in Indiana in 2004.<sup>(19)</sup> Although there was a quarantine order in place until October 2016, from the time the beetle was first detected it has been found in 88 of Indiana's 92 counties. In Indiana, the Department of Natural Resources has documented 7 infestations, with the closest being immediately north of Brazil.<sup>(20)</sup> Several trees in Forest Park alone have become victims of this tree pest, with the top of the tree showing first signs of infestation and the death of the tree continuing downward until the weight of the dead limbs finally break and fall to the ground. Because of the danger this presents to the park's visitors, the infected trees have had to be taken down.

But the Emerald Ash Borer is not the only problem faced. According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, there are 140 known pestilences and pathogens that are a danger to the trees. As such, the City of Brazil has enacted the 'Buy it where you burn it' rule at Craig Park campgrounds.<sup>(21)</sup> No campers will be allowed to bring in their own firewood to burn at the park's campgrounds. The City of Brazil will supply the wood needed through storm cleanup efforts, as well as using the material gained by clearing the camping sites.

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(18) "Forest Types of North America." Encyclopedia of Forestry, [http://encyclopediaofforestry.org/index.php/Forest\\_Types\\_of\\_North\\_America](http://encyclopediaofforestry.org/index.php/Forest_Types_of_North_America)

(19) "Emerald Ash Borer." Indiana Department of Natural Resources, <https://www.in.gov/dnr/entomology/regulatory-information/emerald-ash-borer/>

(20) "Indiana Ash Borer Map." Indiana Department of Natural Resources, <https://indnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=496c7e33f2e74e%204f842d926e05294fea>

(21) "Firewood Rules." Indiana Department of Natural Resources, <https://www.in.gov/dnr/entomology/regulatory-information/emerald-ash-borer/firewood-rules/>



## MAN-MADE, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL FEATURES

### BRAZIL HISTORY

The City of Brazil was founded and named in 1866 by a farmer who named his farm Brazil after the country which was frequently in the news at that time. The Republic of Brazil, South America, gave the Chafariz dos Contos fountain to Brazil, Indiana, as a symbol of friendship in 1956. The fountain is located at the main entrance of Forest Park.

The original county seat was in Bowling Green for 50 years. The courthouse burned and all records were lost. By the late 1860's the National Road (US 40) was constructed and various railroads ran through Brazil making it a more important and prosperous town. After years of heated debates, the relocation of the county seat to Brazil was granted in 1876.

For years Brazil was called a "bedroom" town. Many of the residents lived in Brazil because they wanted to raise their family in a small town, but since high paying jobs were scarce in Brazil, they traveled to other, bigger cities for employment. Brazil is just 15 miles east of Terre Haute, about 25 miles from Greencastle and 60 miles west of Indianapolis. Even with Clay County's increased manufacturing development, many people still choose Brazil as their residence because of its small town flavor.

### TRANSPORTATION LINKS

Brazil is located at the crossroads of Indiana Highway 59 and US Highway 40. This gives visitors easy access to Brazil City Parks from any general direction. Another great advantage to the BCPR is that they are located just 5 miles north of Interstate 70. All the parks are conveniently accessible from city streets. Another great feature of Brazil is the Brazil City Airport. Brazil is located 12 miles east of the Terre Haute Regional Airport and 51 miles west of the Indianapolis International Airport making Brazil an easily accessible destination for distant travelers.

### WALKABILITY

Forest Park was paved in two phases. The first phase was in 2019 and included the east main drive that runs the length of the park. In 2021 the west drive that runs the length of the park was paved. This also included two small drives that provide access to the parks ¼ mile walking area.

Forest Park has an elementary school located an 1/8 of a mile to the east.

This school utilizes the park facility several times a year for fieldtrips and nature activities. They have access to the park via upgraded sidewalks and a direct path through their property that connects to park property. We have a great working relationship with the school and cater to the needs of the students at any chance possible.

Currently Forest Park has three subdivision and three apartment complexes that can easily access park property by foot. These housing areas heavily use the park for a multitude of activities. Walking, Family gatherings, Playground, And disc golf to name a few.

Hendrix Park is now accessible by walk to most of the north central Brazil area thanks to upgraded sidewalks in the area over the last 3 years. All new electrical service and led dusk to dawn lighting was also added in the last year.

$\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of compacted aggregate walking surface and drainage was added to the west side of Craig Park. This was to extend the existing area for connection to the new pedestrian bridge to connect the walking trail.

## INDUSTRY

Since the early 70's Brazil's main source of industry has been its manufacturing plants. The first major manufacturing plant in Clay County was the Arketex Corporation in the 1940's. Unfortunately in the late 1960's the plants shut down. Since then many large and small manufacturing plants have called Brazil home.

## CULTURAL

Many European immigrants came to Brazil in the early 1800's looking for work in the coal mines. The coal mines led to the development of iron and steel mills. The city's economic structure was crumbled by the loss of the iron industry when the mills were moved to East Chicago in the late 1890's. It was years before the brick and clay industries reestablished the local economy. Some families moved out when the mills left. Many current Brazil residents still have ancestors from Europe, but are several generations removed, and most do not continue any cultural heritage.

## ARTS

Brazil has always supported a strong artistic community. The Community Theater of Clay County is located in the old Lark Theater on National Avenue in Brazil. The Community Theater offers a dinner show 4 times a year.

Brazil is also home to one of the oldest continuous community band in Indiana. The band played for the Lincoln-Douglas debates and many past members served together as musicians during the Civil War. Each season, the Brazil Concert Band performs every Sunday evening for 13 weeks during the summer in the Band Shell at Forest Park.

Brazil takes much pride in its musicians. The Northview Marching Knights captured their 9th Class B Indiana State Title November 2016. The band is under the direction of Bob Medworth at Northview High School located just east of Brazil.

## HISTORIC STRUCTURES IN FOREST PARK

### **Chafariz Dos Contos Fountain**

The Chafariz Dos Contos Fountain is the pride of Brazil. The fountain was given to the City of Brazil, Indiana, as a symbol of friendship by its namesake, for the Republic of Brazil, South America, in 1956. The dedication ceremony took place at Brazil's Forest Park on May 26, 1956. A restoration project for the fountain was completed with a rededication on June 14, 1997. The fountain was most recently re-restored in spring of 2020.

### **Log Cabins**

Forest Park has a working relationship with our local historical society. Forest park has two historical log cabins that are open for tours to the public. These tours are conducted by the historical society. We work jointly to maintain the cabins, and keep them in a state of good repair. Although these cabins will eventually need work that will be out of our budget to perform.

The Philip Fernsel cabin was erected in Sugar Ridge Township in 1851. It was moved to Forest Park in 1926. The cabin was presented to the Clay County Historical Society by Jacob and Matilda Fernsel in memory of all Clay County pioneers. Later a second cabin, the William Payne or Frost Cabin was rebuilt in Forest Park.

### **Band Shell**

The Forest Park Band Shell was built for the Brazil Concert Band in 1937 by WPA workers. The stage was enlarged in 1939. The band shell was remodeled and enlarged in 1994 through donation by patrons, the Clay Community Parks Association, and the BCPR.

### **Drinking Fountain**

A drinking fountain built in 1906 by Woman's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) sits in Forest Park located immediately south of the pavilion. This

fountain used to sit on the corner of National Road and Walnut Street by the Mendenhall Pharmacy. At an unknown date the drinking fountain was moved to Forest Park.

### **Swimming Pool**

Brazil City built a circular swimming pool in 1931. The cost of materials and equipment was about \$10,000. All labor was provided by the WPA. That pool was closed in the 1970s. With a grant and matching funds from the city through donations, which took several years to collect, a new rectangular pool was constructed in 1978. It holds 210,000 gallons of water and progresses in depth from 3 ½ to 10 feet. A water slide was added in 1987. With the pool being 38 years old it is starting to deteriorate. The Brazil Park Board is the beginning stages of planning to update the pools concrete apron.

### **Bridge**

There are four wooden bridges in Forest Park. These bridges originally crossed over ponds in the park. The ponds have all been drained for safety reasons but the beautiful wood stained bridges remain. It is believed that the first bridge was erected in 1936 by WPA workers. Through generous donations from residents and local businesses, all four bridges were replaced in 2002 due to server dilatation. The bridges are stained every two years to maintain their integrity.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Forest Park does offer WIFI, but the range is limited. The range of the WIFI can only service about a quarter of the central area of the park. This is something we would like to work on in the future do to growing demand for internet access.

## **AREA FESTIVALS**

The BCPR is home to three annual festivals. The 4th of July Festival is hosted by the Brazil Rotary and includes a carnival, local food vendors, live entertainment, and a fireworks display. The second festival is the Fall Frenzy hosted by Tri-Kappa which includes local craft vendors, live entertainment, and food vendors. The final festival is Christmas in the Park hosted by their own committee. Christmas in the Park includes a lighting display, Santa Claus, and a lighted parade.

Three other festivals that draw a crowd to Clay County are The Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, Cory Apple Festival, and the Highway 40 Fest. The

Parke County Covered Bridge Festival draws the largest crowd to the area, with over a million visitors each year. The main highway to Parke County is Indiana 59 which goes straight through Clay County. The residence and local vendors have piggy backed off that traffic to open up a plethora of vendor stands which benefit the local economy. The Highway 40 Fest celebrated is inaugural celebration this summer and promises to be an annual event for years to come. Brazil is also home to one of the oldest continuous community band in Indiana. The band played for the Lincoln-Douglas debates and many past members served together as musicians during the Civil War. Each season, the Brazil Concert Band performs every Sunday evening for 13 weeks during the summer in the Band Shell at Forest Park.

Brazil takes much pride in its musicians. The Northview Marching Knights captured their 9th Class B Indiana State Title November 2016. The band is under the direction of Bob Medworth at Northview High School located just east of Brazil.

## AREA FESTIVALS

Forest Park also works closely with our local Rotary organization for planning of our 84 year annual 4th of July celebration. This week long event draws thousands of people to the park for nightly entertainment, food, rides, and raffles.

The second festival is the Fall Frenzy hosted by Tri-Kappa which includes local craft vendors, live entertainment, and food vendors. The final festival is Christmas in the Park hosted by their own committee. Christmas in the Park includes a lighting display, Santa Claus, and a lighted parade.

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All the facilities are safe and usable at the Brazil parks properties, but some could use updates and aesthetic upgrades. These issues are directly related to our operating budget. We can maintain what we have, but it leaves little to update existing property. We are currently looking for revenue streams to rectify this problem.

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

### Social

- Population: 8,320
- 48.3% male, 51.7% female
- Median Age: 40
- 19% above the age of 65
- 94% white, 0.9% Black or African American, 2% Hispanic or Latino, 3.9% two or more race groups.
- 2% report themselves as Hispanic or Latino, a 0.3% increase in five years.
- 26.7% of population have a disability (21.4% of under 65).
- 1.4% of population speaks a language other than English at home.
- Population has grown approximately 1% in five years.

### Economics

- Brazil has a 6.9% unemployment rate.
- Median household income: \$46,014.
- Families below poverty level: 14.6%
- Largest non-agricultural employment areas in Brazil: Manufacturing; Educational services, and health care and social assistance
- Largest county employment area: Manufacturing; Educational services, and health care and social assistance

### Housing

- Average household size: 2.3.
- Total housing units: 3,679.
- Vacant units: 9.5%.
- With mortgage: 66%; without mortgage: 34%.

### Education

- Percent of population with high school degree or higher: 84.8%
- Percent of population with Bachelor's degree or higher: 8.8%

### Socioeconomic Summary

- The City of Brazil has a higher percentage of people living below the poverty line than the national average.
- The City of Brazil generally has a lower percentage of population to achieve a Bachelor's degree or higher than both the state and national averages.
- The population of Brazil is less diverse than the state average.
- The City is experiencing slower growth than the national average, though is growing after a period of decline.
- The percentage of the population above age 65 has increased 4.4% in a five-year period (up from 14.6%).

With an above average percentage of the population below the poverty line and a median income below the state-wide average, the City is responsible for smart investment in the Parks system. Despite the economic factors, more than half of those surveyed were willing to pay a new tax and an overwhelming majority would pay an increase in shelter reservation fees to fund parks, indicating the perceived benefits of a strong parks system outweighs the cost. A majority of activities and amenities offered by the City's Parks and Recreation Department remain free to offer cost effective or no cost recreational opportunities to the community.

Generally, parks users are visiting the parks and facilities primarily for leisure and want to see an increase in leisure-related amenities (trails, shaded areas) and events. The events held at the parks, such as the 4th of July festival, are heavily attended by the local population and have a variety of both paid and free activities. The investment in events can be fruitful as members from the community as well as throughout Clay County partake in the festivities, often with local vendors present, creating a loop of positive socio-economic opportunity.

# 04

## **SUPPLY ANALYSIS**

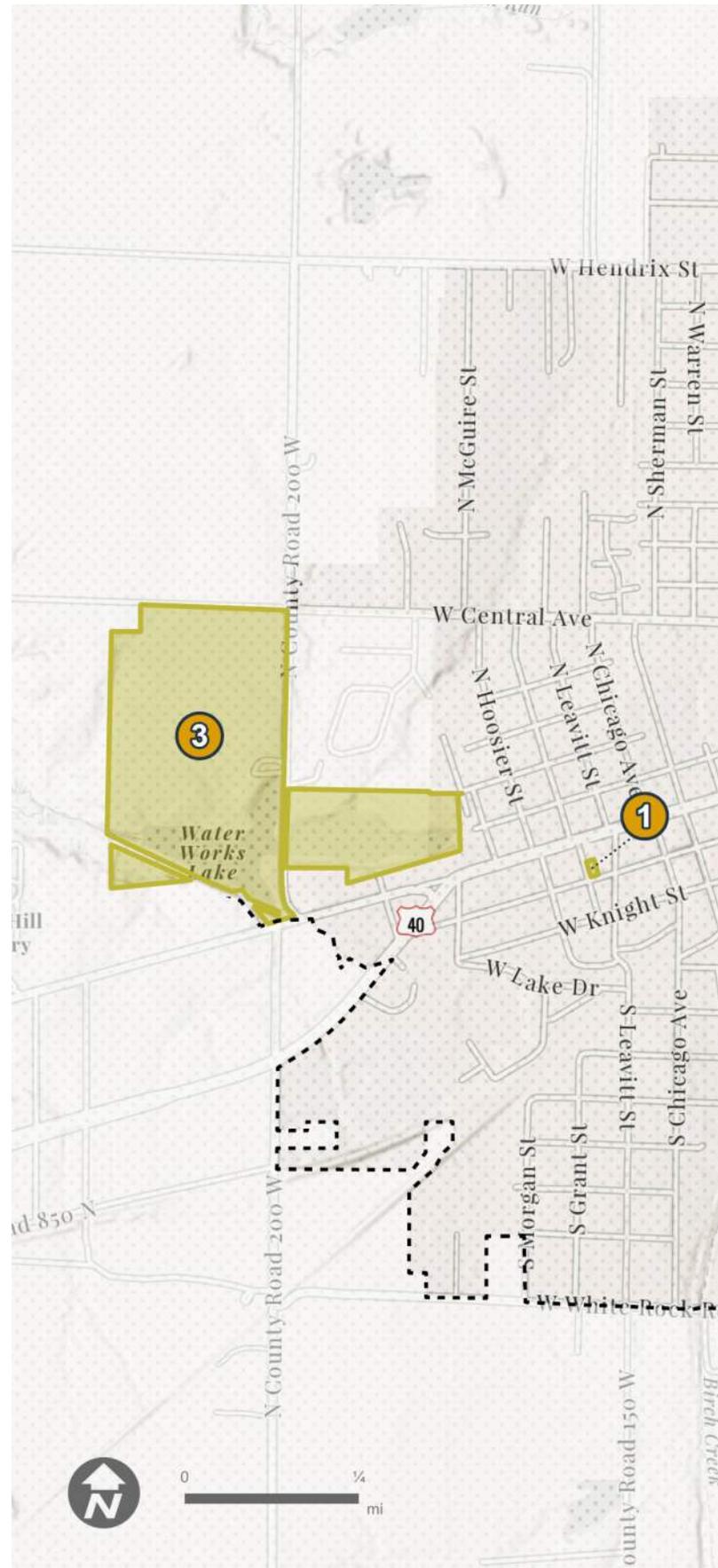


# Existing Conditions

The City of Brazil parks system consists of 5 parks with Forest Park and Craig Park being the largest and three additional smaller scale parks. Together, they provide a variety of amenities and experiences for park visitors. The following is a summary of existing parks conditions, park updates, and planned improvements.

| Park ID | Name                             | Address   | Acres |
|---------|----------------------------------|---|-------|
| 1       | Clay County Community Skate Park | 611 Jackson St.<br>Brazil, IN 47834             | 0.2   |
| 2a      | Forest Park                      | 911 Bonnie Geyne Miller Dr.<br>Brazil, IN 47834 | 57.9  |
| 2b*     | Forest Park - Golf Course        | 1018 S John Steele Dr.<br>Brazil, IN 47834      | 101.7 |
| 3       | Craig Park                       | 2013 W County Rd.<br>950 N<br>Brazil, IN 47834  | 98    |
| 4       | Hendrix Park                     | 25 W Hendrix St.<br>Brazil, IN 47834            | 1.3   |
| 5       | Turner Street Park               | 106 N Turner St.<br>Brazil, IN 47834            | 1.3   |

\* Leased to private operator





## FOREST PARK

Forest Park is a large 49-acre park located in southeast Brazil and encompasses the park as well as an 18-hole golf course managed separately. The park includes a range of amenities including the Forest Park Pool (managed by Brazil YMCA), playground, 18-hole disc golf course, various sports courts including basketball, pickleball, tennis and, shuffleboard, and a baseball field. The Brazil Concert Band is the second oldest concert band in the nation and performs at the bandshell every Sunday between June and August. The Chaforiz Dos Contos fountain, gifted by the country of Brazil, also sits within the park. Additionally, Forest Park provides a pavilion, multiple shelters, and a gazebo all available for rent as well as two restroom buildings.

Based on survey responses, the playground needs updates and additional repairs are needed in the pool area. There is an opportunity to implement a perimeter trail around the park.



## UPDATES SINCE PREVIOUS PLAN

The following updates have been performed since the previous plan.

- Drainage tile system installed in 2017
- Pool – partial repair of concrete apron in 2019
- Chaforiz Dos Contos Fountain – restored spring 2020
- Basketball Court – resurfaced 2020
- Playground – new accessible and Mom and Me swings installed
- Bandshell – new composite memorial benches
- Disc golf course – new nets to be installed later 2022
- Pavilion – roof cleaned and painted; stage windows removed with frames remaining

## PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

### Splash Pad

A new splash pad is planned to be installed adjacent to the pool and be free to be public. As a result, the existing basketball court will be relocated to near the Comfort Station with a new concrete pad, posts, backboard, and goals. The project is currently in the funding stage with bonding acquired and additional grants being assessed. Construction is slated to begin in spring 2022.



## CRAIG PARK

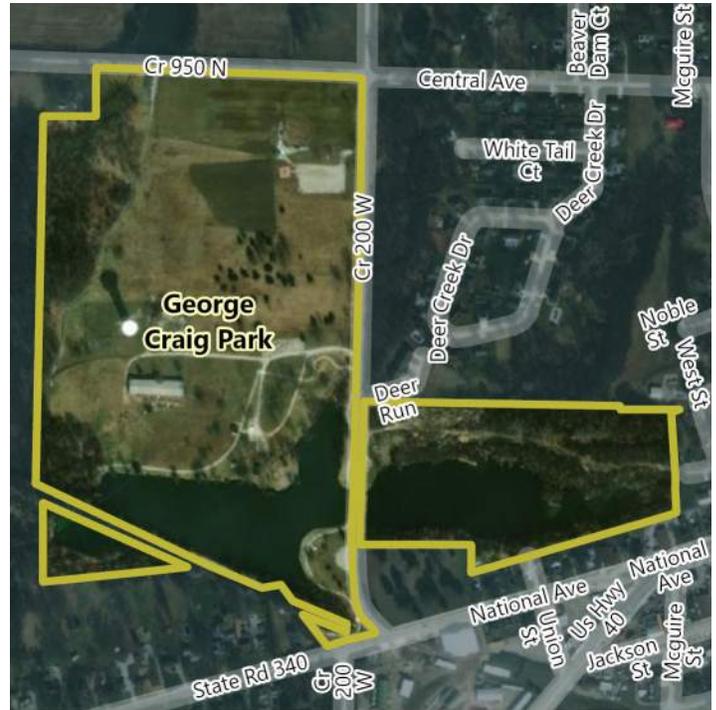
Craig Park is the largest of the Brazil parks at 98 acres and includes two lakes, a large, wooded area and several acres of open space with approximately three miles of walking trails. The park, once primarily passive, is now a hub of activity including a softball field programmed by the American Kids Softball Association (ASK) and 6 soccer fields programmed by Clay Youth Soccer. The new dog park is very popular and has led to an expansion of an additional enclosed acre with agility equipment provided by the Eagle Scouts and other donations. There are still many nature-based activities to do in the park with both lakes fully stocked for fishing, walking trails, and a pavilion. The camping area has 6 primitive sites and 4 RV pull-through sites with water and electric hook-ups. The walking track is currently U-shaped with a new bridge planned to create a loop trail. Fishing Fun Day is hosted annually at Craig Park.

Surveys indicated that the restroom building at Craig Park has been locked for visitor use.

### UPDATES SINCE PREVIOUS PLAN

The following updates have been performed since the previous plan.

- Addition of Camping Sites in 2017-2020
- Playground – additional ADA playground equipment purchased in 2019
- Soccer Fields – two additional fields are being completed



### PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

#### Former Zoo Building Site

Currently, the former Zoo Building is set to be designated as surplus and sold at auction. Once auction is completed the site will be rehabilitated to provide park users additional amenities including a showerhouse for the campground, basketball courts, permanent corn hole courts, and a picnic area.

#### Trail Improvements

The Clay Community Parks Association (CPPA) will be constructing a new footbridge over the west end of the lake to connect the existing U-shaped trail into a loop. This is a carry-over from the previous 5-Year Plan. Additionally, there is some interest in resurfacing the walking trail.



Source: [brazil.in.gov](http://brazil.in.gov), [claycountyparks.org](http://claycountyparks.org)

## HENDRIX PARK (FORMERLY WHEELER PARK)

Hendrix Park is the oldest park within the City of Brazil parks system and is a 1.4-acre neighborhood park including baseball/t-ball field, playground, basketball court, and tennis court as well as a pavilion and restroom building. The park was rededicated in 2018 as Hendrix Park.

Survey responses indicated that the restroom building at Hendrix Park has been locked for visitor use.

### UPDATES SINCE PREVIOUS PLAN

The following updates have been performed since the previous plan.

- Sports courts – resurfaced and restriped to provide basketball, tennis, and pickleball play in 2018
- T-Ball Diamond – new drainage system to address standing water issues installed in 2019

The previous 5-Year Plan identified a need to replace the existing playground with ADA accessible equipment, this has not yet been accomplished and should be carried over as a priority in this plan.



Source: *The Brazil Times*, [claycountyparks.org](http://claycountyparks.org)

FINAL EDITING, PROOFREADING, FORMATTING AND EDITING TO OCCUR AT FINAL DOCUMENT.

## CLAY COMMUNITY SKATE PARK

Clay Community Skate Park is a small skatepark located in western Brazil which opened in 2014. The park has a strong community of skaters and neighborhood supporters that helped raised money for its construction. The park has not received any additions since its construction and is monitored and maintained weekly by the Superintendent and his employees.



Source: Clay Community Sk8 Park facebook



## TURNER STREET PARK

Turner Street Park is the newest park added to the Brazil park system in 2020. The park stands on the former site of structures that were condemned and demolished. The cleared property was turned over to the Park Board to be used as a pocket park. The name is likely to change as the park is developed. The one remaining structure is a garage which has been repaired and painted and currently houses Parks Department equipment.

### PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

The following amenities are currently in various stages of completion as the park is developed.

- Basketball court
- Shelter
- Restroom
- Grill



# Parks Plan Action Schedule Update

A needs analysis based on public input was developed as part of the previous 5-Year Plan. A series of common themes were identified by the community that became the recommendations of the 5-Year Plan.

These included:

- Develop Craig Park
- Improve Security
- Update Facilities
- Improve Accessibility
- Update Playground Equipment

The Brazil Parks and Recreation Action Schedule provided specific projects, costs, funding sources, and a timeline that served to implement the recommendations found through the Needs Analysis of the 5-Year Plan.

The following table provides a summary of the Brazil Parks and Recreation Action Schedule developed in the previous 5-Year Plan, accompanied with an updated status of each identified project at the time of writing of this plan.

By reviewing the status of previous action schedule, this plan aims to identify which, if any, projects should be rolled over to the next 5-year planning period as well as understanding any limitations that may have impacted the implementation of specific projects.

| Year  | Site                   | Action                                   | Cost                | Funds                           | Completed |
|---|------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 2017  | Craig Park             | Camping Sites                            | \$6,000             | Operating Budget                | 2017-20   |
| 2017  | Forest Park            | Install Tile Drainage                    | \$33,000            | City Council                    | 2017      |
| 2017  | Forest Park            | Repair Concrete Pool Apron               | \$100,000           | Operating Budget & City Council | 2019      |
| 2017  | Forest Park            | Tree Removal and Replace                 | \$15,000            | Grant                           | 2017      |
| 2018  | Craig Park             | Pave Walking Track                       | \$60,000            | Operating Budget                | CCPA *    |
| 2018  | Forest Park<br>Wheeler | Resurface Basketball Court               | \$10,000            | Operating Budget                | 2020      |
| 2018  | Forest Park            | Restore Dos Contos Fountain              | \$10,000            | Operating Budget                | 2020-21   |
| 2018  | Craig Park             | Purchase ADA Playground Equipment        | \$50,000+           | City Council                    | 2019      |
| 2018  | Craig Park             | Install bridge to complete walking trail | \$250,000           | Grant                           | CCPA *    |
| 2019  | All Parks              | Upgrade Surveillance System              | \$10,000            | Operating Budget                | 2018      |
| 2019  | Forest Park            | Pavilion Enclosure                       | \$20,000            | City Council                    | **        |
| 2019  | Wheeler Park           | Purchase ADA Playground Equipment        | \$20,000 - \$50,000 | City Council                    |           |
| 2020  | New!                   | Dog Park                                 | \$5,000             | Operating Budget                | 2019      |
| 2020  | Craig Park             | Mountain Bike Trail                      | \$12,000            | Operating Budget                | 2018      |
| 2021  | Forest Park            | Resurface Walking Track                  | \$50,000            | City Council                    |           |
| 2021  | Forest Park            | Splash Park                              | \$500,000           | Unknown                         |           |
| 2021  | Craig Park             | Solar Walking Track                      | Unknown             | Unknown                         |           |
| * CCPA Clay County Parks Association                              |                        |  |                     |                                 |           |
| ** Pavilion Enclosure Deemed Unrealistic Due to Size of Structure |                        |  |                     |                                 |           |

# 05

## ACCESSIBILITY

# Accessibility

The City of Brazil is currently undergoing an ADA study. The study, which is nearing completion, will identify areas of deficiency and necessary improvements to promote accessibility and universal design to the parks system.

The undertaking of the study was a result of the previous five-year plan and the revelation that, of the existing inventory, only Forest Park contained any ADA-compliant facilities.

The proposed updates are to ensure that all members of the community can take full advantage of the parks system. Human Resource Director Mary Jo Archer is the person responsible for ADA Accessibility issues for the City of Brazil. Marvin Moon and the four Park Board members respond and strive to improve accessibility for all as finances allow. Contact can be made with Mrs. Archer at her office in Brazil City Hall at 812.443.2221 or with Mr. Moon at 812.531.9897.

All parks feature handicap signs and markings on asphalt parking areas. Information regarding accessible amenities is available on the City of Brazil's website under the Human Resources page. Additionally, notices are placed in the newspaper and on the public bulletin board.

**ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE WITH:  
ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT of 1968 (As Amended);  
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (As  
Amended);  
AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990  
(As Amended)**

The \_\_\_\_\_ (Applicant) has read the guidelines for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (As Amended); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (As Amended); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (As Amended) and will comply with the applicable requirements of these Acts.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_  
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION 18 - 2012

## CITY OF BRAZIL, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NOTICE PROVISIONS OF THE AMERICANS  
WITH DISABILITIES ACT IN THE CITY OF BRAZIL, INDIANA**

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**WHEREAS**, the City of Brazil receives Federal funds for many uses and projects; and  
**WHEREAS**, the receipt of such funds requires compliance with Federal laws and policies; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the wish of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that Municipal entities such as the City of Brazil formally enact and adopt policies and procedures demonstrating compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA); and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Brazil, by its Common Council wishes to formally adopt and implement the following policy and procedure for the benefit of all of the Citizens of the City of Brazil.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Common Council of the City of Brazil that the following declaration become a written policy of the City of Brazil and be posted in all Municipal Buildings upon passage:

**CITY OF BRAZIL  
 Notice Under the Americans  
 With Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The City of Brazil adopts the 2010 American with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design and the 2005 Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way. In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the City of Brazil, Indiana will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The City of Brazil, Indiana does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: the City of Brazil, Indiana will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the City of Brazil's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

RESOLUTION 18 - 2012

## CITY OF BRAZIL, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: the City of Brazil will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in City of Brazil offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the City of Brazil should contact the Brazil ADA Coordinator at (812) 448-6960, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the City of Brazil to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the City of Brazil is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to the Brazil ADA Coordinator at (812) 448-6960.

The City of Brazil will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

**CITY OF BRAZIL**  
**Grievance Procedure under**  
**The Americans with Disabilities Act**

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the City of Brazil. The City's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant *and/or* his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than sixty (60) calendar days after the alleged violation to:

ADA Coordinator, City of Brazil  
 Brazil City Hall  
 203 East National Avenue  
 Brazil, IN 47834

RESOLUTION 18 - 2012

## CITY OF BRAZIL, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL

Within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the complaint, ADA Coordinator or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within ten (10) calendar days of the meeting, ADA Coordinator or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the City of Brazil and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by ADA Coordinator or his/her designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant or his/her designee may appeal the decision within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the response to the ADA Coordinator or his/her designee.

Within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the ADA Coordinator or his/her designee will meet again with the complainant to discuss the appeal and possible resolutions. Within ten (10) calendar days after the meeting, the ADA Coordinator or his/her designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format described above that are accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator or his/her designee, appeals to the ADA Coordinator or his/her designee, and responses from ADA office will be retained by the City of Brazil for at least three (3) years.

RESOLVED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.

BRAZIL COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF BRAZIL, INDIANA

By: Brian L. Wyndham  
(Signature)

Brian L. Wyndham  
(Printed Name) Presiding Officer

## ATTEST:

Karen McQueen  
Karen McQueen, Clerk-Treasurer  
City of Brazil, Indiana

RESOLUTION 18 - 2012

CITY OF BRAZIL, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

AYES:

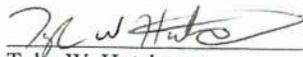
NAYS:

  
Sam Glover

\_\_\_\_\_

  
A. Ann Bradshaw

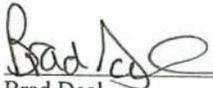
\_\_\_\_\_

  
Tyler W. Hutcheson

\_\_\_\_\_

  
Dustin C. Jorgensen

\_\_\_\_\_

  
Brad Deal

\_\_\_\_\_

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Brazil, Indiana for his approval and signature on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.

  
Karen McQueen, Clerk-Treasurer  
City of Brazil, Indiana

APPROVED and signed by me on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012, at the hour of 7:18 o'clock P.m.

  
Brian L. Wyndham, Mayor  
City of Brazil, Indiana



# 06

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

# Public Engagement Summary

Public engagement serves a critical role in understanding the community’s needs and desires to guide the direction of the Master Plan. Public engagement included an online survey, focus groups, and public workshops to provide residents a variety of opportunities to provide their input into the plan. Using these methods, the project team can gain an intimate knowledge of the Parks and Recreation system through the input and feedback of park users, allowing the planning team to better understand the needs of the Brazil community.

## FOCUS GROUPS

Two focus groups were hosted by the project team via Zoom on April 5-6, 2022 with a total of 10 participants. City staff identified and invited active and influential community members to participate in the focus group meetings with the goal of leveraging the knowledge of these key individuals to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current park offerings. Focus groups consisted of a short presentation followed by a series of discussion questions to generate small group discussion.

## PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

In addition to the focus groups, two public workshops were offered online on April 6, and May 18, 2022. These public workshops were advertised via social media, flyers, and yard signs at the various park locations. Public workshop discussions followed the same format as the focus groups and were open to all members of the public.



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

The following is a summary of key takeaways from both the focus groups and public workshops:

### GENERAL

- **Communication:** Parks in Brazil offer a wide range of amenities but not all residents may be aware of what is available at each park.
- **Consistency:** While each park is unique, all parks should be safe and well-maintained. Consistent signage throughout the parks would reinforce park system identity.
- **Safety:** Parks in Brazil are generally safe with only minor vandalism issues. The Parks Board should continue to prioritize safety moving forward. Additional lighting may be required at park trails.
- **Forest Park** is the most popular and visited park due to its wide range of amenities and events. **Craig Park** is also highly visited for its natural setting. Many residents are not aware of the smaller neighborhood parks.

### KEY NEEDS/DESIRES

- Improve accessibility throughout the parks including providing accessible routes and a fully inclusive playground.
- Trails are highly desirable both within parks and between parks.
- Incorporate public art into parks.

# Online Survey Summary

The Brazil City Park Board (BCPR) and the project team created an online survey questionnaire to gather additional input from the public.

The survey consisted of 27 questions. All 23 questions originally used in the previous Parks Plan survey were included so that current responses could be compared to previous results; these questions were updated, as needed, for clarity or to reflect current park offerings. New questions were added to the survey to gather additional input about City park events including an additional free-response question allowing respondents to fill in an opinion on something otherwise not covered on the survey.

The survey advertised through the City's parks facebook page, yard signs placed at parks, and flyers. A total of 227 people completed the survey between February 2, 2022 and May 31, 2022.

Below is a comparison of key statistics between the previous and current Parks Plan surveys. The following pages provide additional detail about key takeaways from the full survey.

## PREVIOUS RESULTS

- Ages 18-65+
- 67% Female; 33% Male
- 50% had children
- 66% were employed
- 73% used the BCPR Parks at least once per month
- 62% used playgrounds
- 70% rated the parks consistently good

## UPDATED RESULTS (227 RESPONDENTS)

- Ages 18-65+
- 71% Female; 29% Male
- 56% have children
- 80% are employed (69% full-time; 11% part-time)
- 80% use the BCPR Parks at least once per month
- 57% use playgrounds
- 52% rated the parks consistently good

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### People + Parks

The BCPR Parks System is seeing frequent use by people across a wide range of ages. The parks system needs to provide a wide range of opportunities balancing the needs of people in every stage of life.

### People + Amenities

While the survey results do show that people are using the parks for sports (e.g. courts, fields, and youth sports leagues) significantly larger numbers of those surveyed use the parks for leisure and exercise or bringing children to playgrounds.

### Events

Events in Brazil Parks are popular and are a big draw to Forest Park. Some respondents indicated in free-response that they'd like to see additional events hosted at Craig Park. Free-response input from other survey questions may provide some additional insight into event organization, with multiple comments calling for more accessible parking, better access to restrooms, and better restroom maintenance.

### Ratings

Park users generally seem to be happy with the quality of Brazil parks, however a substantial number of those surveyed note that quality of both parks and amenities varies from park to park.

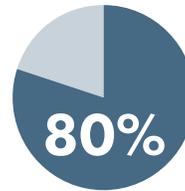
Free-responses provide some insight into where park users would like to see quality improved: restroom maintenance, playground maintenance, pool facilities, lighting.

### AGES

26-45  
**52%**

45+  
**48%**

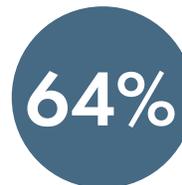
**56%** Households with children



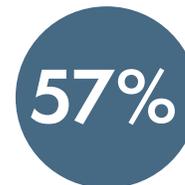
USE BCPR PARKS AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH

**68%** Bringing children and/or grandchildren

## TOP USES



WALKING  
JOGGING  
RUNNING



PLAYGROUNDS



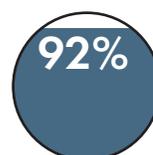
LEISURE  
FISHING

### EVENT ORGANIZATION



### EVENT ATTENDANCE

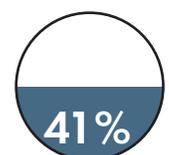
In the last 5 years...



4th of July  
Festival

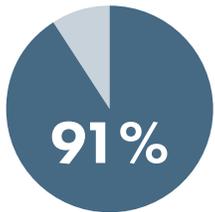


Christmas  
in the Park



Brazil Concert Band  
Sunday Concerts

### PARK & FACILITY QUALITY



SAY THERE ISN'T ANYTHING PREVENTING THEM FROM USING THE PARKS

### TOP 3 PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT



Additional Trails/Paths



Places to Sit and Gather



Accessible Playground Equipment

### \$\$\$ INVESTMENT

55%

More investment in parks

38%

Depends on the investment

### POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES

68% Willing to pay a new tax or user fee to help pay for improvements in the Parks

94% Would pay a small increase in shelter reservation cost to help fund improvements

### Barriers to Park Use

Most cite lack of time as the number one thing preventing them from using parks (72%), however of those reporting that there is something preventing them from using the parks, over half say it is safety or security, and a small portion reported that mobility is an issue.

From free-responses, additional input was given regarding safety and security issues. Unruly "older kids" and teenagers seem to be a deterrent for some with younger children in the parks, and lack of lighting or malfunctioning lights at basketball courts and the track prevent evening use.

Mobility issues reported in free-responses include lack of accessible parking and playground equipment at certain parks.

### Desired Additions

A clear majority of desired amenity additions are for more passive recreation uses. Combined, sports courts and fields represent 16% of survey respondents. Some respondents indicated in free-responses that the available pickle-ball courts are often full and they'd like more pickleball courts.

### Investment in Parks

In general, most of those surveyed indicated that they were willing to pay new taxes or user fees to help fund park improvements, but many of the respondents also indicated that it depends on what the improvements are.

When asked about general park funding strategies, under the assumption that Brazil Parks have applied for all available grants and donations, 45% would like to see only the existing budget utilized to pay for new amenities in the parks, and 36% would agree with Brazil using the existing budget plus municipal bonds or new taxes/fees to pay for new amenities in the parks.

When asked about specific park funding strategies, over half surveyed said they would be willing to pay a small yearly city park user tax, nearly three-quarters would be willing to pay a small increase in program fees, and 94% said they would pay a small increase in shelter reservation costs.



## GOALS UPDATE FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

### PREVIOUSLY STATED GOALS

Based on public input results from both workshops and the survey, all previously stated goals of the previous 5-Year Plan remain valid.

Of these, three remain high priority goals. These are:

- Promote a safe environment for everyone who chooses to use the parks.
- Make the facilities in the parks ADA-accessible so that all can enjoy them.
- Add to and enhance existing physical fitness trails.

Additional goals that should be carried into this plan are:

- Solicit grants that would make it possible for the addition of equipment, building projects and expensive maintenance projects that cannot be funded through the limited budget.
- Solicit donations from the community to aid in these projects.
- Encourage community participation in the implementation of the 5-Year Plan so that they feel ownership of the parks.
- Make the parks appealing to every person in the community by providing a variety of activities that would meet their particular interests.
- Keep the community informed as to any new additions that would be available for their enjoyment.
- Replace rotted and damaged trees each year to preserve nature and to provide homes for the birds and animals.

### NEW GOALS

Public input pointed to additional goals needed for the parks system. The Parks Department should consider expanding their goals to include the following:

- Improve consistency of quality across all parks and amenities.
- Foster leisure and passive recreation with more opportunities for sheltered/shaded gathering.

# 07

## NEEDS ANALYSIS

# Consensus Priority Needs

## ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

The parks system needs to provide a wide range of opportunities balancing the needs of people in every stage of life.

Improve accessibility

- General site accessibility/accessible routes
- Fully inclusive playground
- Accessible parking

Foster Leisure & Wellness Activity

- Trails are highly desirable both within parks and between parks.
- More shaded gathering spaces

Promote Arts & Culture

- Incorporate public art into parks.
- Program additional events; utilize Craig Park for events

Enhance Facilities

- Additional pickleball courts
- Pool resurfacing

## INCREASE COMMUNICATION

Parks in Brazil offer a wide range of amenities but not all residents may be aware of what is available at each park.

Signage/Branding

- Ensure consistent park signage at all parks

Utilize Website to communicate parks plan

- Up-to-date Parks List, Amenities lists, and Parks Map
- News and Events
- Recent and Upcoming Improvements

## ACHIEVE CONSISTENT QUALITY IN PARKS

While each park is unique, all parks should be safe and well-maintained.

- Adopt Park Type Standards to provide guidance on assessing and maintaining consistent quality across all Brazil Parks.

## SAFETY

Parks in Brazil are generally safe with only minor vandalism issues, however safety is still an issue for some park users. The Parks Board should continue to prioritize safety moving forward.

- Additional lighting may be required at park trails and amenities (e.g. basketball courts)
- Increase safety/containment around playgrounds
- Utilize environmental design to reinforce use of spaces and address user conflicts

# Facilities and Restrooms

The goal of the Brazil parks department is to maintain clean and safe public use facilities.

## STANDARDS

- Facilities and restrooms are open and inspected daily for safety and cleanliness.
- Any major deficiencies are noted and given to Superintendent of Parks
- These facilities are to be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Any maintenance needed is to be preformed immediately.
- Any safety concerns are to be addressed immediately.
- All exterior and interior lighting in public buildings is to be always maintained and operational.
- Floors and walkways (including entrances and exits) are to be kept free of debris and slip and fall hazards.
- All plumbing shall be kept in good state of repair and operational in all public facilities throughout the Parks.
- Any use of park facilities by an outside organization should adhere to the same standards of operation that the park upholds.
- If (for any reason) a facility has an issue that cannot be addressed immediately the facility will be closed to the public and the issue will be rectified as soon as possible.
- No facility will operate with sub-par or unsafe conditions within the Brazil city Parks.



# Park Types & Standards

## PARK TYPES

There is no standard nomenclature for parks and open spaces. However, it is common for a small municipal park system to classify parks as Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Special Use Parks. Park types aid park systems in setting an expectation of the types of services and amenities to be offered in each park. By setting park type standards, the parks system can ensure that future improvements and acquisitions meet a standard expectation.

A typical set of park type definitions is as follows:

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

#### 1+ acres

Neighborhood parks are small- to mid-size parks that provide service to the neighborhoods surrounding it. These parks have a 50/50 mix of passive and active amenities with little programming. It is expected that users will use their neighborhood park regularly as part of the fabric of their neighborhood

### COMMUNITY PARKS

#### 15+ acres

Community parks encompass large parks that draw users across several neighborhoods and provide community amenities and events. These larger parks are may provide recreational programming that can accommodate events. It is expected that while some users may walk to the site, most will drive to the site.

### SPECIAL USE PARKS

Special use parks are a catch-all category that encompass parks of varying sizes and uses. These parks typically include a unique amenity for which users are visiting. Examples of Special Use Parks include skate parks, boat ramps, golf courses, and civic plazas.

Based on these definitions, it is recommended that the City of Brazil classify their parks as follows:

| Park Name                        | Park Type    | Acres |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Clay County Community Skate Park | Special Use  | 0.2   |
| Forest Park                      | Community    | 57.9  |
| Forest Park - Golf Course        | Special Use  | 101.7 |
| Craig Park                       | Community    | 98    |
| Hendrix Park                     | Neighborhood | 1.3   |
| Turner Street Park               | Neighborhood | 1.3   |



## PARK EQUITY STANDARDS

Park Equity Standards provide guidelines to bring all parks, existing and future, to a standard quality. These standards are to be implemented to existing parks in the form of park-specific improvements, and to future parks added to the system as guidelines in the site-specific master plan process. Through the implementation of these standards, the City can provide quality service to all its residents regardless of which park they call home. Standards are subdivided into Neighborhood Park and Community Park standards, based on park classification. There is no standard for a Special Use Park since their uses and sizes typically vary.

However, all parks should include the following:

- Standard Park Sign
- Security cameras
- Permanent trash cans

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK STANDARD

1+ acre

### Elements:

- Minimal parking required, on-street as needed for ADA access
- Small playground
- Minor active sports (i.e. basketball, volleyball, etc.)
- Pavilion and picnic tables
- Open space, shade & tree canopy
- Safe pedestrian connections

### Recommendations:

- Engage neighborhood in park process to determine specific amenities desired by residents and avoid over-programming of space
- Preserve open space within park and maintain some passive use
- Provide park signage
- Position playgrounds away from sports courts, near parking but away from streets



Sample graphic showing approximately 3 acre site.

This graphic represents amenities and spatial relationships. Actual park shapes and configurations will vary.



# COMMUNITY PARK STANDARD

15+ acres

## Elements:

- Sports fields
- Flex event space with event accommodations
- Parking
- Restroom buildings
- Pavilions/Shelters
- Destination playground
- Walking Loop with shade
- Open space, shade, tree canopy

## Recommendations:

- Focus spending on key items: civic building, destination playground, etc.
- Provide park signage
- Include walking loop and shaded seating areas.
- Position sports lighting away from surrounding residential areas.
- Position playgrounds away from sports courts, near parking but away from streets.



Sample graphic showing approximately 15 acre site.

This graphic represents amenities and spatial relationships. Actual park shapes and configurations will vary.



# 08

## **STRATEGIC ACTION SCHEDULE**

# Park Specific Recommendations

The following park specific recommendations have been developed based on public input and review of previous goals to advance the vision of the City of Brazil park system. This plan focuses on the next 5 years, the short-term planning period for proposed improvements. Proposed improvements have been made for mid- and long- term (6-10 and 11-15 years respectively) planning periods. These mid- and long- term improvements should be reevaluated for continued relevancy in the next plan update.

## FOREST PARK

### PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

#### Splash Pad

A new splash pad is planned to be installed adjacent to the pool and be free to be public. As a result, the existing basketball court will be relocated to near the Comfort Station with a new concrete pad, posts, backboard, and goals. The project is currently in the funding stage with bonding acquired and additional grants being assessed. Construction is slated to begin in spring 2022.

## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

|  | SHORT-TERM<br>0-5 YRS. | MID-TERM<br>6-10 YRS. | LONG-TERM<br>11-15 YRS. |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>STANDARD IMPROVEMENTS</b>   |                        |                       |                         |
| Standard Park Sign   | X                      |                       |                         |
| Permanent Trash Cans   | X                      |                       |                         |
| <b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>   |                        |                       |                         |
| Formalize primary parking area with pavement and ADA-accessible parking spaces, per ADA requirements | X                      |                       |                         |
| Add ADA-accessible parking spaces in secondary parking areas, per ADA requirements                   | X                      |                       |                         |
| Sidewalk access to all shelters  | X                      |                       |                         |
| <b>PLAYGROUND</b>  |                        |                       |                         |
| Decorative fencing to enforce the space and provide safety   | X                      |                       |                         |
| Replace obstacle course at playground  | X                      |                       |                         |
| Inclusive playground w/ADA-accessible route  |                        | X                     |                         |
| <b>POOL</b>  |                        |                       |                         |
| Resurfacing  | X                      |                       |                         |
| New slide  | X                      |                       |                         |
| <b>PAVILION</b>  |                        |                       |                         |
| Replace roof structure   | X                      |                       |                         |
| Add enclosure  | X                      |                       |                         |
| Add heating system   |                        | X                     |                         |
| <b>SITE IMPROVEMENTS</b>   |                        |                       |                         |
| Repave walking track   | X                      |                       |                         |
| Tree re-planting   | X                      |                       |                         |
| Pave Service Roads   |                        |                       | X                       |
| Pave carnival oval   |                        |                       | X                       |
| Exercise equipment   |                        |                       | X                       |

## CRAIG PARK

### PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

#### Former Zoo Building Site

Currently, the former Zoo Building is set to be designated as surplus and sold at auction. Once auction is completed the site will be rehabilitated to provide park users additional amenities including a showerhouse for the campground, basketball courts, permanent corn hole courts, and a picnic area.

#### Trail Improvements

The Clay Community Parks Association (CPPA) will be constructing a new footbridge over the west end of the lake to connect the existing U-shaped trail into a loop. This is a carry-over from the previous 5-Year Plan. Additionally, there is some interest in resurfacing the walking trail.

### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

#### Standard Improvements

- Standard Park Sign
- Security cameras
- Permanent trash cans

#### Park Specific Master Plan

Craig Park is a park with large potential to serve the community and provide a variety of recreational opportunities. A park specific master plan is recommended to best provide a vision for the future of Craig Park.

The Master Plan should include the following:

- ADA accessible parking area
- Paved access roads
- Inclusive playground with ADA-accessible route
- Fishing pier
- Additional shade shelter(s)/picnic area(s)
- Sports Court(s)
- North loop walking trail with trees & benches
- Campground improvements including lighting and showerhouse
- Exercise equipment

Additionally, the Master Plan should consider the location of planned improvements regarding the former Zoo Building site to best accommodate all future proposed elements.

## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

|  | SHORT-TERM<br>0-5 YRS. | MID-TERM<br>6-10 YRS. | LONG-TERM<br>11-15 YRS. |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| STANDARD IMPROVEMENTS                          |                        |                       |                         |
| Standard Park Sign                             | X                      |                       |                         |
| Permanent Trash Cans                           | X                      |                       |                         |
| PARK SPECIFIC MASTER PLAN                      |                        |                       |                         |
| Design   | X                      |                       |                         |
| ADA accessible parking area                    | X                      |                       |                         |
| Paved access roads                             | X                      |                       |                         |
| Inclusive playground with ADA-accessible route | X                      |                       |                         |
| Fishing pier                                   |                        | X                     |                         |
| Additional shade shelter(s)/picnic area(s)     |                        | X                     |                         |
| Sports Court                                   |                        | X                     |                         |
| North loop walking trail with trees & benches  |                        |                       | X                       |
| Campground lighting                            | X                      |                       |                         |
| Exercise equipment                             |                        | X                     |                         |

## HENDRIX PARK

### PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

N/A

### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

|  | SHORT-TERM<br>0-5 YRS. | MID-TERM<br>6-10 YRS. | LONG-TERM<br>11-15 YRS. |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| STANDARD IMPROVEMENTS  |                        |                       |                         |
| Standard Park Sign   | X                      |                       |                         |
| Permanent Trash Cans   | X                      |                       |                         |
| ACCESSIBILITY  |                        |                       |                         |
| Replace existing playground with inclusive playground including ADA accessible route | X                      |                       |                         |
| Create primary parking area with ADA accessible parking                              | X                      |                       |                         |
| Accessible paths to all amenities  | X                      |                       |                         |

## CLAY COMMUNITY SKATE PARK

### PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

N/A

### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

|                       | SHORT-TERM<br>0-5 YRS. | MID-TERM<br>6-10 YRS. | LONG-TERM<br>11-15 YRS. |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| STANDARD IMPROVEMENTS |                        |                       |                         |
| Standard Park Sign    | X                      |                       |                         |
| Permanent Trash Cans  | X                      |                       |                         |

## TURNER STREET PARK

### PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

The following amenities are currently in various stages of completion as the park is developed.

- Basketball court
- Shelter
- Restroom
- Grill

### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

|   | SHORT-TERM<br>0-5 YRS. | MID-TERM<br>6-10 YRS. | LONG-TERM<br>11-15 YRS. |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>STANDARD IMPROVEMENTS</b>                    |                        |                       |                         |
| Standard Park Sign                              | X                      |                       |                         |
| Permanent Trash Cans                            | X                      |                       |                         |
| <b>ACCESSIBILITY</b>                            |                        |                       |                         |
| Parking area with ADA accessible parking spaces | X                      |                       |                         |
| Accessible paths to all amenities               | X                      |                       |                         |
| Inclusive playground                            | X                      |                       |                         |

## ALL PARKS

### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

|                              | SHORT-TERM<br>0-5 YRS. | MID-TERM<br>6-10 YRS. | LONG-TERM<br>11-15 YRS. |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>STANDARD IMPROVEMENTS</b> |                        |                       |                         |
| Upgrade surveillance system  | X                      |                       |                         |

# Additional Recommendations

## COMMUNICATIONS

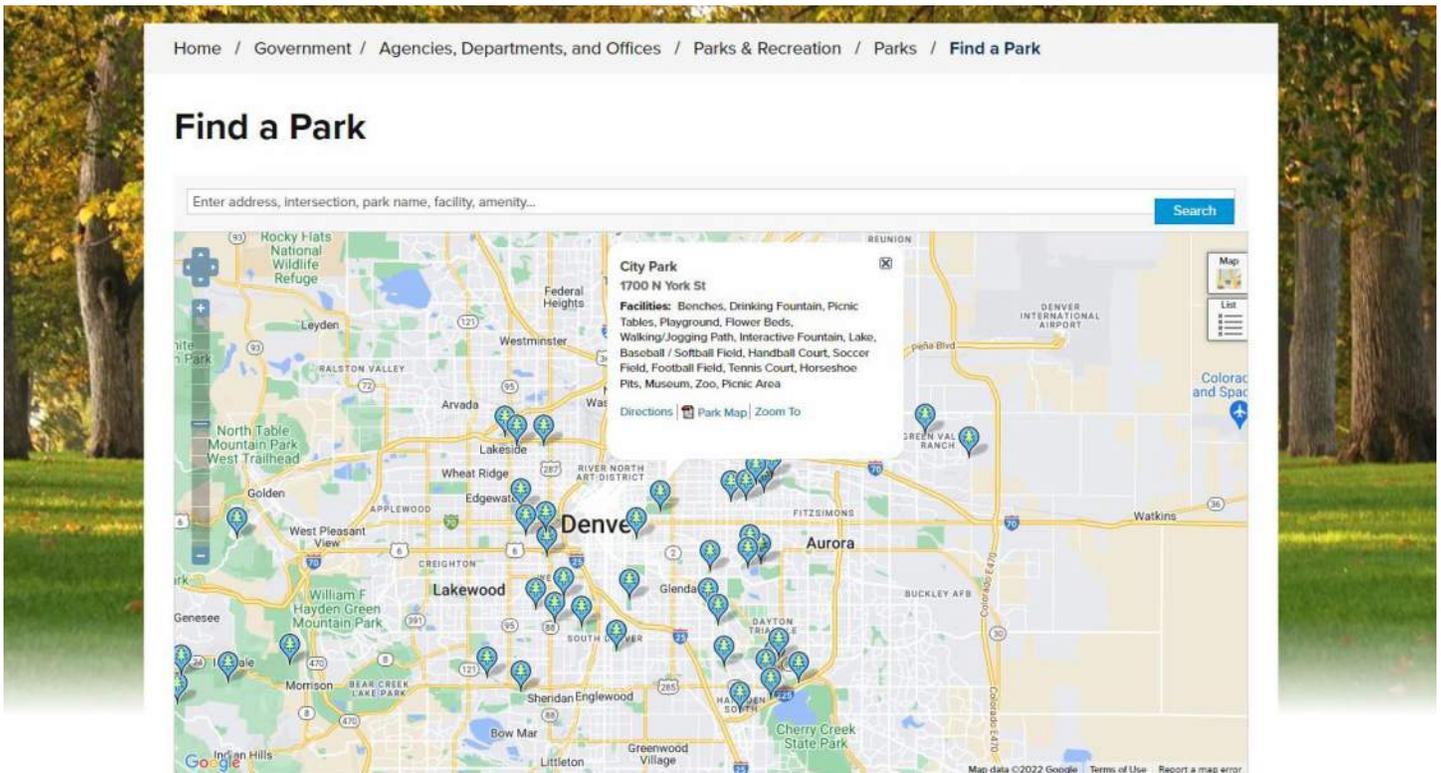
The goal of improving communications about parks is to raise awareness about park offerings within the City of Brazil. The City of Brazil website and social media pages provide a unique opportunity for the parks system to improve communications of park offerings using resources already available to them.

## WEBSITE

While Parks already has a section page within the website, it is recommended that this section page is expanded to include the following:

### Park Directory

While the Brazil Parks page already includes a list of parks within Brazil, it is notably missing Clay Community Park as well as Turner Street Park. It is recommended that this section is updated to include all 5 Brazil Parks as well as including quick at-a-glance list or icons of amenities offered at each park. An interactive park system map at the top of the page would help website users become acquainted with all the parks in Brazil that they may not know about. Adding these features would improve the public's awareness of parks and amenities within the system.



Example: City of Denver - Find a Park

### Recent and Upcoming Improvements

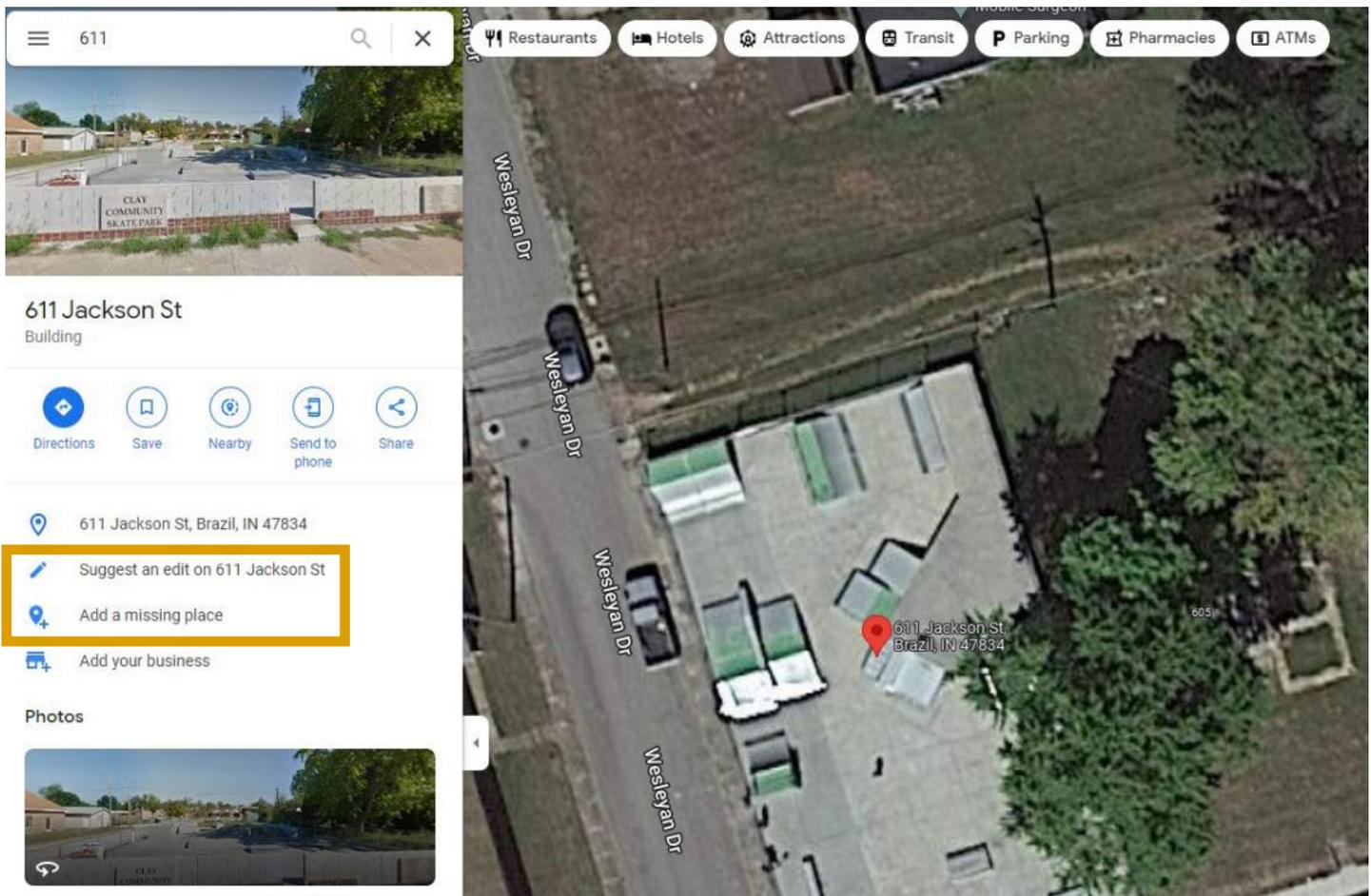
A page within the website dedicated to improvements enhances transparency with the public and generates excitement about upcoming improvements and attractions. Additionally, social media posts can help reach a wide audience and can be reshared by residents.

### Events

A centralized calendar of events within the webpage can help improve awareness of events throughout all Brazil Parks. Facebook events allow for further advertising as well as attendance lists.

## NAVIGATION ENGINES

When looking for parks, many users turn to Google Maps and other navigation engines, so it is key that information on these sites are accurate and complete so that parks are easy to find. At the moment, only Craig Park is correctly shown in Google Maps. Hendrix Park still appears as Wheeler Park, Forest Park can be found as either "Forest Park Superintendent" or "Playgrounds," while Clay Community Skate Park and Turner Street Park are missing altogether. Editing this information is simple –by using the "Suggest an edit" or "Add a missing place" options anyone can add a missing park and edit incomplete or incorrect information. This is also a great opportunity to include website information as well as contact information. Similar corrections can be done on other navigation engines such as Apple Maps and Bing Maps. Providing accurate information on these navigation engines can boost public awareness of existing parks and amenities while incurring no additional cost from BCPR.



Current view of Clay Community Skate Park via Google Maps

# 5-Year Action Schedule

The following 5-Year Action Schedule takes into consideration both Planned and Proposed improvements breaking down costs on an annual basis. This Action Schedule provides a guide and framework for the financial planning of the next 5-years.

Park specific recommendations have been previously broken down into short- (0-5), mid- (6-10), and long-term (11-15) projects. The following 5-Year Action Schedule further breaks down the short-term projects to provide an implementable timeline for the various short-term projects to be completed within this current 5-year cycle. Project costs have been distributed throughout the years.

| Year | Site               | Action   | Cost        |
|------|--------------------|--|-------------|
| 1    | All Parks          | Standard Park Sign   | \$5,000.00  |
| 1    | All Parks          | Permanent Trash Cans   | \$54,000.00 |
| 1    | All Parks          | Upgrade surveillance system  | \$10,000.00 |
| 1    | Forest Park        | Replace roof structure   | \$10,000    |
| 1    | Forest Park        | Splash pad   | \$250,000   |
| 1    | Forest Park        | Basketball court replacement/relocation  | \$50,000    |
| 1    | Craig Park         | Design Fee   | \$286,960   |
| 2    | Craig Park         | New footbridge   | \$250,000   |
| 2    | Hendrix Park       | Create primary parking area with ADA accessible parking                              | \$5,000     |
| 2    | Hendrix Park       | Accessible paths to all amenities  | \$16,000    |
| 2    | Turner Street Park | Basketball court   | \$50,000    |
| 2    | Turner Street Park | Shelter  | \$25,000    |
| 2    | Turner Street Park | Grill  | \$1,000     |
| 2    | Turner Street Park | Restroom   | \$150,000   |
| 2    | Turner Street Park | Parking area with ADA accessible parking spaces                                      | \$1,125     |
| 2    | Turner Street Park | Accessible paths to all amenities  | \$132,000   |
| 3    | Turner Street Park | Inclusive playground   | \$250,000   |
| 3    | Craig Park         | Zoo Building Demo  | \$280,000   |
| 3    | Forest Park        | Add ADA-accessible parking spaces in secondary parking areas                         | \$4,800     |
| 3    | Forest Park        | Sidewalk access to all shelters  | \$26,400    |
| 4    | Craig Park         | Campground Showerhouse   | \$300,000   |
| 4    | Craig Park         | Basketball courts  | \$100,000   |
| 4    | Craig Park         | Campground lighting  | \$200,000   |
| 5    | Craig Park         | Permanent corn hole courts   | \$2,000     |
| 5    | Craig Park         | Picnic area  | \$10,000    |
| 5    | Forest Park        | Decorative fencing around play area  | \$35,000    |
| 5    | Forest Park        | Replace obstacle course  | \$60,000    |
| 5    | Forest Park        | Resurface pool   | \$45,500    |
| 5    | Forest Park        | New slide  | \$5,000     |
| 5    | Forest Park        | Add enclosure  | \$15,000    |
| 5    | Craig Park         | ADA accessible parking area  | \$1,200     |
| 5    | Craig Park         | Paved access roads   | \$150,000   |
| 5    | Hendrix Park       | Replace existing playground with inclusive playground including ADA accessible route | \$80,000    |
| 5    | Craig Park         | Inclusive playground with ADA-accessible route                                       | \$120,000   |
| 5    | Forest Park        | Repave walking track   | \$100,000   |
| 5    | Forest Park        | Tree re-planting   | \$15,000    |

# Funding Sources

The following identifies potential grant programs that may support the projects and initiative identified in the Master Plan. This list should be updated as new sources are identified or information changes.

## LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

This federal program is administered at the state level by the Community Grants and Trails staff at the Indiana DNR Division of State Parks. The program provides 50% reimbursement grants to assist park and recreation boards in acquiring and developing outdoor recreation areas for public use.

DNR  
State of Indiana - Department of Natural Resources  
Division of State Parks – Community Grants and Trails  
317-232-4075  
402 W. Washington St., Room W298  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2782  
[on.IN.gov/outdoorrec](http://on.IN.gov/outdoorrec)  
Application Submission Period: Annual/June

## INDIANA TRAILS PROGRAM (ITP)

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks, Community Grants and Trails Section, administers State Funds made available to the DNR through INDOT's Federal Fund Exchange Program to help government agencies and 501 (c)3 not-for-profit organizations develop recreational trail facilities for public use.

DNR  
Indiana DNR, Division of State Parks  
Community Grants and Trails Section  
(317) 232-4075  
402 West Washington Street, W271  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
<https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/recreation/>  
Application Submission Period: Annual/March

## OUR TOWN GRANT PROGRAM

A Federal grant program to support creative placemaking projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places with the arts at their core.

(202)682-5403

NEA Grants

400 7th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20506-0001

<https://www.arts.gov/grants/our-town/how-to-apply>

Application Submission Period: Annual/August

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM (EJG2G)

The Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) program provides funding at the state, local, territorial, and tribal level to support government activities that lead to measurable environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms.

(202) 564-2515

Environmental Protection Agency [Mail Code 2201A]

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20460

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/forms/contact-us-about-environmental-justice>

Application Submission Period: Due April 10, 2023

Requires partnership between a local government and a community-based nonprofit organization.

## NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

This program supports community-based efforts to mitigate climate change and COVID-19 pandemic impacts, safeguard cultural resources, and foster cultural resilience through identifying, documenting, and/or collecting cultural heritage and community experience. The program prioritizes projects from disadvantaged communities in the United States or its jurisdictions, and NEH encourages applications that employ inclusive methodologies.

(202)606-8570

Division of Preservation and Access

National Endowment for the Humanities

400 Seventh Street, SW

Washington, DC 20506

<https://www.neh.gov/program/cultural-and-community-resilience>

# Final Public Input

A final draft of this report was published to the City of Brazil's Parks and Recreation website on xx/xx/2023. Comments were accepted via email to Parks Superintendent Marv Moon.

XX number of comments were received from the public. The feedback . . .



# Adoption by Parks Board

## Board Resolution Adopting Plan

WHEREAS, The City of Brazil Parks and Recreation Board is aware of the parks and recreation needs of the residents of Brazil, Indiana, and WHEREAS, the Board realizes the importance of sound planning in order to meet the needs of its citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF BRAZIL PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, by unanimous declaration, does adopt the Brazil Parks and Recreation 5-year Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan as its official plan for the next five years, for the growth and development of parks and recreational opportunities in Brazil, Indiana.

Passed and signed this Date.

ATTEST:

President

City Attorney

# Plan Evaluation

The City of Brazil Parks and Recreation Department will continue to evaluate how the 5-year plan has or has not succeeded in meeting the needs of the community by soliciting public input during Parks Board meetings. Anyone unable to attend are welcomed to submit continuing feedback to the Parks Superintendent for discussion during the meetings. The Parks and Recreation Department will use the a combination of the public input and the results of accessibility study to determine whether the priorities identified in the 5-year plan are consistent with the community's priorities.

# Ordinance 4-1992

CITY OF BRAZIL, INDIANA  
ORDINANCE NO. 4-1992

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SUBSECTION 30.03(K) OF CHAPTER 30, TITLE III. OF THE CITY OF BRAZIL, INDIANA CODE OF ORDINANCES (ORDINANCE NO. 14-1982) BY ADDING GEORGE N. CRAIG PARK TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE BRAZIL DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRAZIL, INDIANA:

## SECTION ONE.

### Jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation

Subsection (K) of Section 30.03, Chapter 30, Title III. of the Brazil Code be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

(K) Department of Parks and Recreation. The Brazil Department of Parks and Recreation shall have administrative and management jurisdiction over Forest Park, Babe Wheeler Park, and George N. Craig Park. The Department shall consist of a Parks and Recreation Board, a Park Superintendent, and other personnel that the Board deems necessary.

(1) The Parks and Recreation Board shall consist of four members appointed by the Mayor with no more than two being affiliated with the same political party.

(2) The terms of office and the filling of vacancies shall be according to applicable state statutes.

(3) The powers and duties of the members of the Parks and Recreation Board and the Park Superintendent shall be pursuant to IC 36-10-3-1 through 36-10-3-14 and other applicable provisions of this code.

## SECTION TWO

### Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances

All ordinances, or any parts thereof, previously enacted which are in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby specifically repealed.

## SECTION THREE.

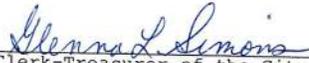
### Time of Effect

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, when it is signed by the presiding officer, and approval by the Mayor.

ORDAINED AND ESTABLISHED this 10<sup>TH</sup> day of  
MARCH, 1992.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor and Presiding Officer of the  
Common Council of the City  
of Brazil, Indiana

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk-Treasurer of the City of  
Brazil, Indiana

MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

AYES:

NAYS:

James Sheese  
Daniel D. Kelly

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ron Bradshaw

\_\_\_\_\_

Alan J. Hatten

\_\_\_\_\_

Bill Hatten

\_\_\_\_\_

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Brazil, Indiana for his approval and signature on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH, 1992.

Glenna L. Simons  
Clerk-Treasurer of the City of Brazil, Indiana

APPROVED and signed by me on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH, 1992, at the hour of 7:50 o'clock P.M.

Kenneth L. Crabb  
Kenneth L. Crabb, Mayor of the City of Brazil, Indiana



City of Brazil Parks & Rec  
911 S. Bonnie Geyne Miller DR.  
Brazil, Indiana 47834  
(812) 443-2221



GAI Consultants, Inc.  
618 East South Street, Suite 700  
Orlando, Florida 32801  
(407) 423-8398